US threat to pull out of LCA Project

1377. SHRI SOM PAL: W[U the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to etate:

(a) whether it is a fact that USA has threatened to pull out of light Combat Aircraft (LCA) project;

•- .. «. ,.,'

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; end

(c) what is its likely impact on the LCA projects stating the manner in whjch Government proposes to continue the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir. The progress on the agreement with US Government for co-operation in the LCA project in terms of laboratory.to-laboratory interaction in technology and commercial needs for the project has been satisfactory.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Does not arise.

Induction of MBT Arjan

1378. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a iflact that induc tion of the indigenously developed main battle tank (MBT) into service is becoming doubtful even though it bad been cleared for production;

(b) if so. what are the major reasons raising doubt and uncertainty about its inductjon into service; and

(c) what are the possibilities of its induction in the army?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN TH^ MTNTSTRY OF DEFENCE "SHRI MALT.TKARJUN): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Army has already given its in-principle acceptance for in- I duction of Main Battle Tank ARJUN for service-use. Further exploitation trials by the troops on pre.produc-tion series ARJUN tank are in progress. The tank is expected to be productionised a_B soon as final go-ahead is given by the Army on completion of these trials.

Condition imposed on woman pilots IAF

1373. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be ased to state:

I >> whether it is a fact that some o pilots have been recruited in tan Air Force;

(b) whether any specific service inditions/training conditions were imposed only on the women pilots I if so, the reasons therefor;

I whether these conditions are irevaifing in other nations; and

(d) if not, what is the specific I reateons for imposing such condi tions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE <SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir. Women pilots have been recruited in the IAF from 1993 Onwards. This scheme is on an experimental $basi_s$ for 3 years, subject to a review leafter.

(b) There is no difference in ser-ce and training conditions between male and female candidates of simi- entry for induction as pilots in IAF.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.